

## Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-04

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DRAFTED BY CU/ARTS:PSOLMSEN:MAJ

APPROVED BY CU/ARTS:PSOLMSEN

USIA/ICS - HSCHEIDMAN (PHONE)

MR. T. MESSER (SUBSTANCE)

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

EUR/WE; CU/WE

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R 162352Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS STATE 063959

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT:VENICE BIENNALE

FOR CAO

REF: SOLMSEN-ROTH TELECON, STATE 032056, ROME 2332

1. COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS CHAIRMAN  
THOMAS MESSER HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING CABLE FROM  
GREGOTTI: "THERE ARE INSISTENT RUMORS THAT THE U.S.  
WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE VENICE BIENNALE WITH  
ANDRE, HEIZER, MORRIS, SERRA AS PREVIOUSLY AGREED.  
WILL INSTEAD WITH A GROUP SHOW OF ARTISTS. MENTIONED  
NAMES AMONG OTHERS WERE RYMAN, MOTHERWELL. THESE  
VERY GOOD AND INTERNATIONALLY-KNOWN, BUT HAVE LITTLE  
TO DO WITH THE THEME OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT UPON  
WHICH IT WAS COMMONLY AGREED TO CENTER INTERNATIONAL  
PARTICIPATION. PLEASE CONFIRM AMERICAN PARTICIPATION  
IN THE PREVIOUSLY AGREED TERMS SO THAT WE CAN STOP  
RUMORS. WITH BEST REGARDS, GREGOTTI."

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2. MESSER HAS REPLIED AS FOLLOWS: "RE YOUR CABLE, OUR COMMITTEE UNAWARE OF ANY PREVIOUS AGREEMENT. WE PLAN TO PARTICIPATE WITH GROUP SHOW SELECTED BY THREE CRITICS AS CITED IN U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT CABLE TO AMERICAN

EMBASSY ROME DATED FEBRUARY 6. PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWS. REGARDS, THOMAS MESSER."

3. COMMITTEE HAS DETERMINED SEND THREE CRITICS SHOW, AND ORGANIZATION IS UNDERWAY. ARTS ENDOWMENT MUSEUM PANEL HAS APPROVED MATCHING GRANT, SUPPORT HAS BEEN OFFERED BY STATE AND USIA, AND PRIVATE FUND-RAISING EFFORT ALSO BEING UNDERTAKEN.

4. IF EMBASSY HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO, WOULD BE USEFUL TO STRESS TO BIENNALE AUTHORITIES THAT THIS WILL BE ONLY ENTRY FOR U.S. PAVILION. IF THEY WISH TO INSTALL ANOTHER AMERICAN SHOW IN CENTRAL PAVILION, THAT NATURALLY UP TO THEM. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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